

Senators hope to overturn transportation rule

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Andrew Steele andrew.steele@nwi.com, (219) 933-3241

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United States Sen. Todd Young, R-Indiana, has signed on as a sponsor of legislation to repeal a U.S. Department of Transportation rule that would require the merging of transportation planning across U.S. Census-designated urban areas.

Locally, that would require at least some degree of merger between the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning and Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

The rule, impacting metropolitan planning organizations responsible for managing the flow of federal money to road projects, was enacted at the close of the Obama administration. The legislation to overturn it was introduced last week by Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Illinois.

Many MPOs, including NIRPC and CMAP, have expressed opposition to the rule, which would take full effect two years after publication of the 2020 U.S. Census' determination of urban areas.

Young called the rule "a regulation in search of a problem."